

DRESSER, CHARLES

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# Abraham Lincoln and religion

Charles Dresser

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 227

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 14, 1933

## WHERE LINCOLN LIVED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

While most of the homes in which Lincoln lived are known, the period of time which he spent in each dwelling is not so well established. In round numbers he resided in Kentucky seven years; Indiana fourteen years; rural Illinois seven years; in Springfield, Illinois, twenty-one years; and in Washington seven years. It will be noted that these terms of years are all multiples of seven which makes the task of remembering them much easier.

### *Hodgenville, Ky.*

*February 1809 to May 1811*

The year of Lincoln's birth is well known and the location of the birthplace cabin is also well established. It is true that early biographers note but one Kentucky home of the Lincolns while later historians state that he lived in the Hodgenville home four years. Now we have documentary proof that the Lincolns lived on the birthplace farm three miles south of Hodgenville on the Old Cumberland Road but two years.

### *Knob Creek, Ky.*

*May 1811 to November 1816*

As early as May 11, 1811, Thomas Lincoln had established his family in a cabin on Knob Creek about eight miles north of Hodgenville. This home was on the same Cumberland Road which passed by the birthplace cabin. The importance of this site is becoming more and more significant as the boyhood days of Lincoln, from two to seven years of age, were spent here. Soon after November 11, 1816, the Lincolns moved from the Knob Creek home.

### *Spencer County, Ind.*

*November 1816 to March 1830*

The migration of the Lincolns from Kentucky to Indiana would probably consume about five days as it was less than a hundred miles. By the first of December, 1816, they must have been in Indiana. The Lincolns settled at a point where Lincoln City is now located and remained in this home for fourteen years. In fact Abraham Lincoln's residence was changed but twice during the first twenty-one years of his life.

### *Macon County, Ill.*

*March 1830 to July 1831*

The first home of the Lincolns in Illinois according to the President was "on the north side of the Sangamon River at the junction of the Cumberland and prairie, about ten miles westerly from Decatur." The family must have been well settled there by the first of April, 1830, and Lincoln looked upon this place as his home until the following year when his parents moved to Coles County. While he may have boarded in different homes during the winter of the deep snow in 1830 and lived at Sangamon town while the Offutt flatboat was being

constructed, we cannot think of any of these places as permanent residences.

### *New Salem, Ill.*

*July 1831 to April 1837*

Lincoln is said to have lived with John Cameron while he was a clerk for Offutt. One authority says that "Lincoln soon changed his home. He went and boarded with Mr. James Rutledge about the year 1833." Rutledge built his tavern about 1830 but in 1833 Henry Onsett became the landlord and was the proprietor for two years.

Reep, one of the most dependable of the New Salem historians, states that "whenever he was out of employment Lincoln never hesitated to make his home with Jack and Hannah Armstrong." It seems quite likely that after his return from the Black Hawk War, where he had been closely associated with Armstrong, he may have gone to his home to live.

When Lincoln became proprietor of a store and Postmaster it appears as if he used a small room adjacent to the store room as a lodging place.

Reep is also the authority for the statement that after Ann Rutledge's death in 1835 "Lincoln made his home for a considerable portion of the time with his friend, Bowling Green." The old home of Squire Bowling Green was located at the foot of the bluffs about a half mile north of New Salem.

### *Speed's Store, Springfield, Ill.*

*April 1837 to January 1841*

The date of the removal of Abraham Lincoln from New Salem to Springfield is very clearly stated in his autobiographical sketch. He says that "In the autumn of 1836 he obtained a law license and on April 15, 1837, removed to Springfield and commenced the practice." The story of his rooming with Joshua Speed is familiar to all Lincoln students.

### *William Butler Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*January 1841 to November 1842*

After Speed sold out his business and went to Kentucky Lincoln moved to William Butler's house where Speed and he had taken their meals. Lincoln was living here when he visited Speed in Kentucky.

### *Globe Tavern, Springfield, Ill.*

*November 1842 to August 1843*

Immediately after their marriage in the Edward's home Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln went to live in Globe Tavern. This public boarding house was situated on Adams Street and kept by a widow by the name of Beck. In this tavern Robert Lincoln, the first child of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, was born.

### *Monroe Street Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*August 1843 to May 1844*

A recent book by Dr. Evans published the statement that shortly after Robert Lincoln's birth the family moved to a modest cottage on Monroe Street. Beveridge states that the one-story frame house into which they moved at this time was at 214 South Fourth Street.

### *Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*May 1844 to March 1847*

The best-known home of Lincoln in Springfield, and the one that has now become the property of the state is situated on Eighth Street. On January 7, 1844, Lincoln and Charles Dresser, the owner of the property, entered into an agreement whereby Lincoln was to come into possession of the home, and on May 2, 1844, Dresser deeded Lincoln the property.

### *Sprigg's Boarding House,*

*Washington, D. C.*

*March 1847 to March 1849*

When Lincoln first went to Washington as a Congressman his family accompanied him and they made their home in the boarding house of Mrs. Spriggs. It was situated on Capitol Hill and was the fourth of a row of houses known as Carroll Row. The house was a three-story brick. Although Mrs. Lincoln did not remain here throughout the entire first session it appears that for a time at least during Lincoln's term as Congressman this might serve as the Washington home of Abraham Lincoln. There is some evidence that during the second session he changed his boarding place.

### *Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*March 1849 to February 1861*

After Lincoln's return from Congress he again became settled in the Eighth Street home. During the year 1856 the house was raised to a two-story building, and it is this home as we now observe it that was occupied by the Lincolns but five years before Lincoln moved to Washington.

### *Chenery House, Springfield, Ill.*

*February 1861*

In preparation for leaving Springfield the Lincolns sold their household goods and rented the Eighth Street home. The family moved to the Chenery House which stood on the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets. They occupied rooms on the second floor facing Fourth Street.

### *Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C.*

*February and March 1861*

Upon arriving in Washington on February 23, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln occupied "a suit of five elegantly furnished rooms in the southwest corner of Willard's Hotel which fronted on Pennsylvania Avenue and overlooked the White House."

### *White House, Washington, D. C.*

*March 1861 to April 1865*

Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, and from that time until his death the White House was his official home. During the residence here his son, William Lincoln, died.

### *Anderson Cottage, Washington, D. C.*

*Summers 1861 to 1864*

The Anderson cottage in the Soldiers' Home grounds was the summer White House of the President and his family. It was about four miles from the White House to the north, and Lincoln rode back and forth each day.



# LINCOLN LORE

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## ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN-TODD MARRIAGE

One hundred years ago on November 4, 1842 there occurred one of the most important events in the personal life of Abraham Lincoln—he married Mary Todd. The real significance of the epochal wedding has been completely overshadowed by a trivial piece of fiction involving Abraham Lincoln in a love affair with a girl named Ann Rutledge.

Ever since the day when William Herndon first publicized in Springfield, Illinois the Lincoln-Rutledge fable, a fictitious story created by his own imagination, biographers, authors of fiction, playwrights, poets, magazine contributors and feature writers have invariably ignored the facts about Lincoln's real romance with Mary Todd which culminated in his marriage. The emphasis placed on the alleged Rutledge affair has left the casual American reader feeling that Lincoln's real venture in matrimony was a catastrophe. One writer had the audacity to state in the opening sentence of an article in the *Reader's Digest* (January 1937): "The great tragedy of Lincoln's life was not his assassination, but his marriage."

Probably it is too late now to do very much about correcting the ridiculous and wholly undependable story about Lincoln's infatuation for Ann Rutledge, and his supposed mental collapse, approaching suicide, at the time of her death, in which there is not one word of truth. It may not be too late, however, to invite a more sympathetic attitude toward the facts relating to Lincoln's actual romance with Mary Todd and the wedding which made them husband and wife, although Herndon attempted to nullify the interest in the actual Lincoln-Todd nuptials by printing a foolish and untenable story about Lincoln having at a previous date run away from a wedding ceremony.

Up until Lincoln was twenty-eight years of age he had lived in the rural districts far withdrawn from cultural influences. In these words he tells of his first permanent residence in a town: "On April 15, 1837 removed to Springfield." His reaction to this new situation, socially at least, is noted in a letter he wrote on May 7, 1837 after he had been in Springfield twenty-one days, in which he said: "I am quite as lonesome here as I ever was anywhere in my life. I have been spoken to by but one woman since I've been here, and should not have been by her, if she could have avoided it."

That one woman who had spoken to him may have been Mary Todd, cousin of his law partner, John T. Stuart, whose office it is likely she visited as she was in Springfield at this time for a three months' visit. Whether or not Lincoln met Mary Todd during this first visit, or did not meet her until 1839 when she came there to make her home, we may feel assured that he was captivated by her intellectual attainments, her aristocratic bearing, her brilliant conversation and undoubtedly was impressed by the fact that she was a great admirer and personal acquaintance of the venerable, Henry Clay, Lincoln's own "beau ideal of a statesman."

That Lincoln became engaged to Mary Todd sometime in the year 1840 is well known, and that they anticipated being married sometime in 1841 is also admitted, but Herndon's story about a proposed wedding to have occurred on January 1, 1841, at which time guests were present, wedding breakfast prepared and Mary was left at the altar with no bridegroom on hand, is a gross fabrication.

Mrs. Wallace, a sister of Mary Lincoln, made this testimony with reference to Herndon's fake wedding:

"There is not a word of truth in it. I was never so amazed in my life as when I read that story. Mr. Lincoln never did such a thing."

That the engagement of Abraham and Mary was broken on January 1, 1841 is accepted, and while it is not known for a certainty which one of the young people was responsible for the misunderstanding, it is not evident that there was any demonstration on the part of either one of them that caused any expression of disrespect. Two factors which undoubtedly contributed to the temporary separation was Lincoln's fear that Mary might not be happy in having to share his humble station, and the influence of Mary's aristocratic relatives who looked with much disfavor on the match. Mrs. John T. Stuart, wife of Lincoln's first law partner claimed that "Mr. Edwards, her guardian, always was opposed to Mr. Lincoln, on the ground that he was a poor young man and had no prospects," and that, "he insisted upon Mary writing a letter to Mr. Lincoln, breaking off the engagement."

For many months after the parting Mary and Mr. Lincoln did not keep company, but it is evident from their correspondence with friends that they were still in love with each other. We will leave it to Mrs. B. S. Edwards, a sister-in-law of Ninian Edwards, who married Mary's sister, Elizabeth Todd Edwards with whom Mary lived, to tell the story of the wedding plans.

"Ninian Edwards came to our house rather early in the morning of a November day and without any preliminaries said: 'My wife wants you to come to our house this evening.' I asked what was going on. He replied: 'We are going to have a wedding. I met Mr. Lincoln a while ago and he told me that he and Mary were going to be married this evening (I think he said) at the parsonage, but I told him that must not be. Mary was my ward, and if she was going to be married it must be from my house.' He went on to say that he had left his wife greatly disturbed over the fact that she did not have time to prepare a suitable wedding feast . . . Some little misunderstanding had occurred which prevented Mr. Lincoln from visiting at the house, but Mrs. Simeon Francis, whose husband was editor of the *Sangamo Journal* (a mutual friend), had made arrangements that they should meet there, and it was there the wedding was planned. To her sister, Mrs. Edwards, Mary had been reticent and had not given the least intimation of her purpose."

There were but few guests at the wedding and the *Illinois State Journal*, for November 11, 1842 carried this announcement:

"Married—in this city on the 4th instant, at the residence of W. N. Edwards, Esq. by Rev. C. Dresser, Abraham Lincoln, Esq. to Miss Mary Todd, daughter of Robert Todd, Esq. of Lexington, Ky."

Sam Marshall, of Shawneetown, Illinois, sent Lincoln a check for legal services which reached him just an hour before the wedding. Days later Lincoln acknowledged the receipt of the money and commented: "Nothing new here except my marrying, which to me is a matter of profound wonder."

This is the inscription which Abraham Lincoln had placed in the ring that he slipped on the wedding finger of Mary Todd, one-hundred years ago: "A. L. to Mary November 4, 1842. Love is eternal."

Note—See Lincoln Kinsman, No. 36.



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## THE SPRINGFIELD HOME OF THE LINCOLNS

One of the most valued treasures which the State of Illinois possesses is the Springfield home of Abraham Lincoln. The atmosphere of the Christmas season invites us to review in some detail the history of the house in which three of the Lincoln children were born, and where the early childhood days of all of the boys were spent.

### *The Dresser Cottage—1839*

In 1839 Rev. Charles Dresser, minister of the Presbyterian Church at Springfield, purchased a house lot at the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets. It had a frontage of fifty feet on Eighth Street and one hundred and fifty feet on Jackson. He erected on this lot a story-and-a-half frame cottage with at least two rooms on the second floor.

### *Lincoln Purchases Dresser Property—1844*

January 7, 1844, Charles Dresser signed an agreement to sell his property to Abraham Lincoln for \$1,200, plus a shop opposite the public square valued at about \$300. On May 2, 1844, Charles Dresser and his wife deeded their home to Lincoln, who took possession.

### *The First Tenants—1848*

About four years after the acquisition of the property, Lincoln served a term in Congress, and leased the home for one year to Cornelius Ludlum for \$90, reserving the use of "the north room upstairs" in which to store his furniture.

### *The Brick Fence—1850*

In 1850, Lincoln decided to build a fence with a brick foundation, extending along the front of the house and also for a short distance along Jackson Street. He estimated it should be about fifty feet long and wrote to a local brick maker about furnishing the material necessary. In a memorandum prepared by Lincoln, on June 8, 1856, he stated that in June, 1855, he had been furnished bricks for the foundation of a fence, so it is not likely it was completed until this time. The tall wall and fence would have a tendency to make the low cottage appear to a disadvantage, and this may have been indirectly responsible for the improvements which were made about which there has been so much discussion.

### *Another Story Added—1856*

The Illinois State Journal of January 6, 1857, listed the new building improvements made in Springfield during the year 1856. Among those noted was an "Addition to house on Eighth Street for A. Lincoln. Cost \$1,300. Hannan and Ragsdale, architects and builders."

The story that Mary Todd took the initiative in the improvement project and had the addition built unknown to Lincoln, while he was away on the circuit, lacks confirmation. If the major part of the work was done during his absence, it was probably started shortly after Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln sold two lots at Bloomington on April 12, 1856, for the sum of \$400. This may have prompted the addition, as it was just after this, in fact the following day, that Lincoln started on the long circuit which may not have brought him home until June 2, although there are three week-ends in which he might have made a trip to Springfield and been back on the circuit Monday morning.

At this time, also, a tree was planted in front of the remodeled house, which added much to the appearance of the home in later years. The growth of this tree has furnished a proper measuring rod for a chronological arrangement of the many pictures taken of the house.

### *The Home of the New President—1861*

Upon the election of Lincoln to the presidency in 1860, next to the pictures of members of his family, a portrait of the home in which he lived had the greatest human interest. *Leslie's Weekly* for November 17, 1860, reproduced a picture of the dwelling and also gave a short description of the house as follows:

"The simple home of this American Statesman and President-Elect of the United States is situated on the corner of Eighth and Edward Streets, and here he has resided twenty years out of the three and twenty he has been a dweller in Springfield. It stands on a sort of platform of brickwork, and is two stories high, having two windows on each side of the door and five on the upper story. The side view shows that it has an extension and side entrance, with a receding stoop running the whole length of the extension. In the rear are the stables and barn. The edifice is painted of a pale chocolate color, and the window blinds are of deep green. The roof extends a little over the edges, like that of a Swiss cottage. The rooms are elegantly and comfortable furnished with strong, well-made furniture, made for use and not for show. On the front door is a black door plate, on which, in silvered Roman characters, is inscribed the magical name,

A. Lincoln.

"Here dwells the great exponent of Republicanism and the victor of Stephen A. Douglas in 1858. It has no ornaments, no deftly-trimmed shrubberies, no marble vases; it is all in keeping with the man—plain, unpretending, comfortable and substantial."

### *Tenants from 1861 to 1877*

Before the Lincolns left for Washington in 1861, they sold most of their furniture to T. Tilton, President of the Great Western Railroad, who had rented the house. The Tiltens remained there until 1869.

The next tenant was George H. Harlow, the Illinois Secretary of State. He and his family occupied the house for eight years. Dr. Wendlandt rented it about 1877; and three years later O. H. Oldroyd leased the property from Robert Lincoln.

### *The Oldroyd Occupancy—1880-1887*

The coming to Springfield of Mr. Oldroyd was a very fortunate circumstance, and he immediately restored the house to something like its original form and opened it to the public as a museum. Here he displayed the valuable collection of Lincolniana which he had been gathering for twenty-five years or more.

After occupying the house for several years, Mr. Oldroyd interested Robert Lincoln in presenting the property to the State of Illinois for a museum. After Mr. Lincoln had been assured that the state wanted the property and the legislature had agreed in 1887 to take charge of it and maintain it, it was deeded to the state.

### *In Possession of the State—1887*

After the state had acquired a title to the Lincoln home, Mr. Oldroyd was retained as the first official custodian, which office he held until 1892, when a change in administration caused his removal; and the valuable collection of Lincolniana, which he had been assembling for years, was moved to Washington and displayed in the house where Lincoln died. Other custodians have followed Mr. Oldroyd and contributed to the enjoyment of the thousands of visitors who have registered at the Lincoln home each year.

### *The House Restored*

During the last decade there have been many improvements made about the place. A piece of property directly north of the Lincoln home was acquired and the old building thereon was razed. The interior of the house has been restored to approximately the same condition as it was when occupied by the Lincolns, and the general appearance has been greatly improved. It is gratifying to know that detailed drawings have been made and preserved by the state, which would make possible its duplication in case it were destroyed.





From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. John M. Palmer.

Not all of the voters against the Negro exclusion clause were Whigs or friends of Abraham Lincoln, of course. Peter Cartwright, an ardent Democrat whom Lincoln had defeated in his race for Congress in 1846, voted against the article. And John Calhoun, another Democrat who had appointed the penniless Lincoln as his deputy surveyor in New Salem, abstained from voting on the article.

Nor were Lincoln's personal and political friends unanimous in their opposition to the exclusion of free Negroes from Illinois.

WILLIAM HENRY HERNDON voted for the exclusion article. At the time of the vote, he was Lincoln's law partner and enthusiastic Whig ally. They were having a dispute, however, over Lincoln's opposition to the Mexican War. Herndon could not understand Lincoln's stand in a constitutional, moral, or political sense, though Lincoln sent him letter after letter explaining his position.

DAVID LOGAN did not vote the way his father Stephen Trigg Logan voted. He supported the exclusion of Negroes from the state.

WILLIAM BUTLER, famed for his ability to predict the outcome of elections, was born in Kentucky. A friend of Stephen T. Logan's, he was an active Whig and a political associate of Lincoln's. He supported the exclusion article.

The preponderance in number as well as in importance in Lincoln's life lay with those who opposed the exclusion article. Lincoln's friends opposed it, though there were significant exceptions — most notably, William Herndon.

The vote on this constitutional article is not a reliable predictor of later political behavior. Hurlbut became a Republican and was entrusted by Lincoln in 1861 with a delicate information-gathering mission to South Carolina. Palmer also became a Republican and a sturdy supporter of Lincoln's political career. Lincoln in turn made him a brigadier general. Other members of the constitutional convention who protested anti-black legislation had very different political careers. Edwards became a Democrat — a move that shocked Lincoln — and he opposed Lincoln's

election in 1860. Logan's politics during the Lincoln administration were murky. Herndon said that he was like other "monied men": "old & timid — disturbed and terrified." During Reconstruction he became a Democrat, though he later returned to the Republican fold.

Simeon Francis, Anson Henry, and James Cook Conkling became Republicans. Conkling was staunchly antislavery and told President Lincoln of his hope that Union military victories would leave "no question as to the condition and rights of 'American citizens of African descent.'"

Matheny, on the other hand, dragged his feet in becoming a Republican, entering the party much later than Lincoln. Edwards became a Republican in 1856, but he switched to the Democratic party a year later. Albert Taylor Bledsoe, far from becoming a Republican, grew gradually to advocate slavery as biblically justified. He was the Assistant Secretary of War of the Confederate States of America!

The complexities of American politics in the middle of the nineteenth century prevent attaching any clear racial views to those of Lincoln's friends who opposed the exclusion article. Their later political views were not necessarily consistent with a friendly stance towards the Negro. Moreover, the extremism of the article probably caused some to doubt its constitutionality, no matter what their sentiments on racial questions. Still, the mass of voters certainly did not think it extreme, and over 80% of Springfield's citizens supported it. To be a part of so small a minority in opposition was a significant, even heroic, act.

*Editor's Note:* Archivist Dean DeBolt of the Sangamon State University Library generously sent microfilmed copies of the poll books on which this article is based.

#### R. GERALD McMURTRY LECTURES PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Printed copies of the 1979 R. Gerald McMurry Lecture, Don E. Fehrenbacher's *The Minor Affair: An Adventure in Forgery and Detection*, are available on request. A few copies of the 1978 lecture, Richard N. Current's *Unity, Ethnicity, & Abraham Lincoln*, are still available as well. Requests will be filled as long as supplies last.

## THE MINOR AFFAIR An Adventure in Forgery and Detection

DON E.  
FEHRENBACHER

THE SECOND ANNUAL  
R. GERALD McMURTRY LECTURE  
DELIVERED AT  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA  
1979



## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1978-1979

by Mary Jane Hubler

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, 50 Chatham Road, Harwich Center, Mass.; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Rd., Garden City, N.Y.; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louise Avenue, Northridge, California; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois; E.B. (Pete) Long, 607 S. 15th St., Laramie, Wyoming; Ralph G. Newman, 175 E. Delaware Place, 5112, Chicago, Illinois; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 1121 S. 4th Street Court, Springfield, Illinois. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above persons, or the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum.

## 1978

**HAMILTON, LEE DAVID**

1978-25

Lee David Hamilton/The Lincoln Calendarbook 1979/(Picture of French's statue of Lincoln)/(Cover title)/[Copyright 1978 by Lee David Hamilton. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any matter is prohibited. Bookcalendar copyright and Calendarbook copyright in 1978. Published by The Prairie River Press, Post Office Box 8, Greenville, Wisconsin 54942.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 8 1/2" x 7", 60 pp., illus. Calendarbook on Lincoln containing text, plain and colored illustrations, and a 1979 calendar.

**SCHILDT, JOHN W.**

1978-26

Four/Days/In/October/by/John W. Schildt/[Copyright 1978 by John W. Schildt. Published by Craft Press.]

Brochure, paper, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", v. p., 71 (4) pp., illus., price, \$2.00.

**STROZIER, CHARLES B.,**

PH.D. 1978-27

(Portrait)/Abraham Lincoln/Charles B. Strozier, Ph.D./Associate Professor of History/Sangamon State University/Springfield, Illinois/Lecturer in Psychiatry/Rush Medical College/Chicago, Illinois/(Caption title)/[Copyright 1978 by Warner/Chilcott. All rights reserved. Published by *Psychobiography*, Vol. 1, No. 2.]

Pamphlet, paper, 10 7/8" x 8 1/8", 15 (1) pp., illus.

**LOUIS A. WARREN LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, THE**

1978-28

Lincoln Lore/Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor./Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the/Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801./Number 1685, July 1978 to Number 1690, December 1978.

Folder, paper, 11" x 8 1/2", 4 pp., illus. Number 1685, Five Ex-Presidents Watched The Lincoln Administration, July 1978; Number 1686, Pale-faced People and Their Red Brethren, August 1978; Number 1687, A "Great Fraud"? Politics in Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois*, September 1978; Number 1688, Recent Acquisitions: Important Fiftieth-Anniversary Gift From Lincoln National Life's Agency Heads, October 1978; Number 1689, Don E. Fehrenbacher On The Dred Scott Case: A Review, November 1978; Number 1690, Index for 1978, December 1978.

## 1979

**BURGESS, LARRY E., DR.**

1979-3

Powderly, Lincoln/And The Shrine/By Dr. Larry E. Burgess, Archivist/Head Of Special Collections/A. K. Smiley Public Library/(Portraits of Powderly and Lincoln)/A Keepsake/February 12, 1979/Lincoln Memorial Shrine/Redlands, California/(Cover title)/[Printed at the Beacon Printery, Redlands, California.]

Pamphlet, paper, 8 5/8" x 5 1/2", (4) pp., printing on inside back cover, illus. Limited edition No. 219.

**GUTMAN, RICHARD J. S. AND****KELLIE O. GUTMAN**

1979-4

John Wilkes Booth/Himself/Richard J. S. Gutman/Kellie O. Gutman/Hired Hand Press Dover, Massachusetts 1979/[Copyright 1979 by Richard J. S. Gutman & Kellie O. Gutman. Printed by Thomas Todd Company, Boston.]

Book, cloth, 8 1/2" x 8 1/2", 87 (1) pp., inlaid photograph of Booth on front cover, illus., price, \$17.50. No. 162 of limited edition of 1,000 copies. Autographed copy by authors.

**HYMAN, HAROLD M.**

1979-5

Harold M. Hyman/*With Malice Toward Some: Scholarship (or/Something Less) on the Lincoln Murder*/(Caption title)/[Copyright 1979 by the Abraham Lincoln Association. Published by the Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois.]

Pamphlet, paper, 9" x 6 1/4", fr., 23 (1) pp.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

1979-6

Lincoln Memorial University Press/(Device)/Spring 1979/Vol. 81, No. 1/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education./[Harrogate, Tenn.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", 60 pp., illus., price per single issue, \$3.00.

**LLOYD, JOHN A.**

1979-7

Snowbound/With/Mr. Lincoln/John A. Lloyd/Vantage Press/New York Washington Atlanta Hollywood/[Copyright 1979 by John A. Lloyd. All rights reserved. First edition.]

Book, cloth, 8 1/4" x 5 1/2", fr., 125 (11) pp., illus., price, \$6.95.

**MCCRARY, PEYTON**

1979-8

Abraham Lincoln And/Reconstruction/The Louisiana Experiment/by Peyton McCrary/(Face of Lincoln)/Princeton University Press/Princeton, New Jersey/[Copyright 1978 by Princeton University Press. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 9 1/2" x 6 3/8", xviii p., 423 (3) pp., illus., price, \$25.00.

**(SHIMIZU, HIROSHI)**

1979-9

(Title: Lincoln)/[Copyright 1979 by Gakken, Tokyo. Published by Gakken, Tokyo. Printed in Japan. Entire contents of book printed in Japanese language.]

Book, hard boards, 8 15/16" x 6 1/8", 144 pp., entire text is a comic book, black and white and colored illustrations. Juvenile literature.

**WEBER, GEORGE W.**

1979-10

Did John Wilkes Booth Take His Own Life/At Enid, Oklahoma?/By George W. Weber/Madison, Wisconsin/(Portrait of Lincoln)/Bulletin Of 35th Annual Meeting/of/The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin/held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin/April 16, 1978/Historical Bulletin No. 34/1979/(Cover title)/

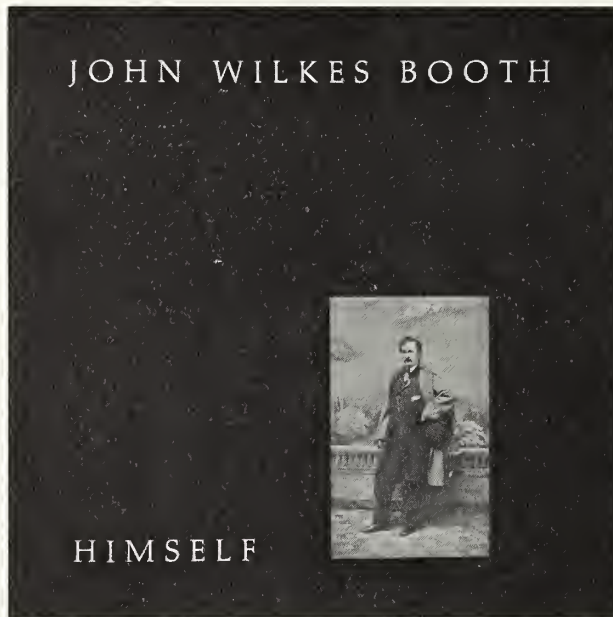
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7 9/16", 16 pp., illus., price, \$1.25. Send to Mrs. Carl Wilhelm, c/o State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1107 Emerald Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.

**LOUIS A. WARREN LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, THE**

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# Lincoln Lore

September, 1979

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Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
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## LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD FRIENDS: FRIENDS OF THE NEGRO

On June 24, 1847, Benjamin Bond offered a resolution to the Illinois Constitutional Convention "to report a provision prohibiting free negroes from emigrating into this State, and that no person shall bring slaves into this State from other States and set them free." Bond's motion eventually became Article 14 of the Illinois Constitution. Abraham Lincoln was not a member of the constitutional convention, and, since he assumed his seat in the United States House of Representatives in December, he was not in Springfield on March 6, 1848, to vote on the article. There is nothing on the subject in his surviving correspondence. Some of Lincoln's friends and political associates, however, were members of the convention, and many of his Springfield neighbors did vote on the constitution — and on Article 14, which was submitted separately for a vote — in the spring of 1848. The record of the convention and of the votes of his Springfield friends goes a long way towards dashing any argument that Abraham Lincoln's racial views were deeply rooted in Western negrophobia.

Benjamin Bond was a Whig, but his resolution stirred plenty of opposition among fellow Whig delegates to the constitutional convention. Stephen Trigg Logan, who had been Lincoln's law partner three years before, was one of the Whig delegates who had doubts about the resolution. "It was a subject of a good deal of delicacy," he suggested, "and one upon which it was difficult at all times clearly to distinguish between judgement and prejudice." John M. Palmer, a Democrat, detested "one idea" reformers, but "Every impulse of his heart and every feeling of his, was in opposition to slavery." Agitation of the subject blocked quiet movements to ameliorate the slaves' condition and "remove the great stain of moral guilt now upon this great republic." The proposition, therefore, should not be in the constitution. Logan, too,

wanted to leave the proposition out, in part because he "respected the abolitionists and believed them to be honest and sincere." Stephen A. Hurlbut, a Whig like Logan, "never would consent to" the proposition.

Lincoln's brother-in-law Ninian Wirt Edwards was also a member of the convention. A month after Bond offered his resolution, Edwards suggested a cleverly thought out amendment to the proposed bill of rights:

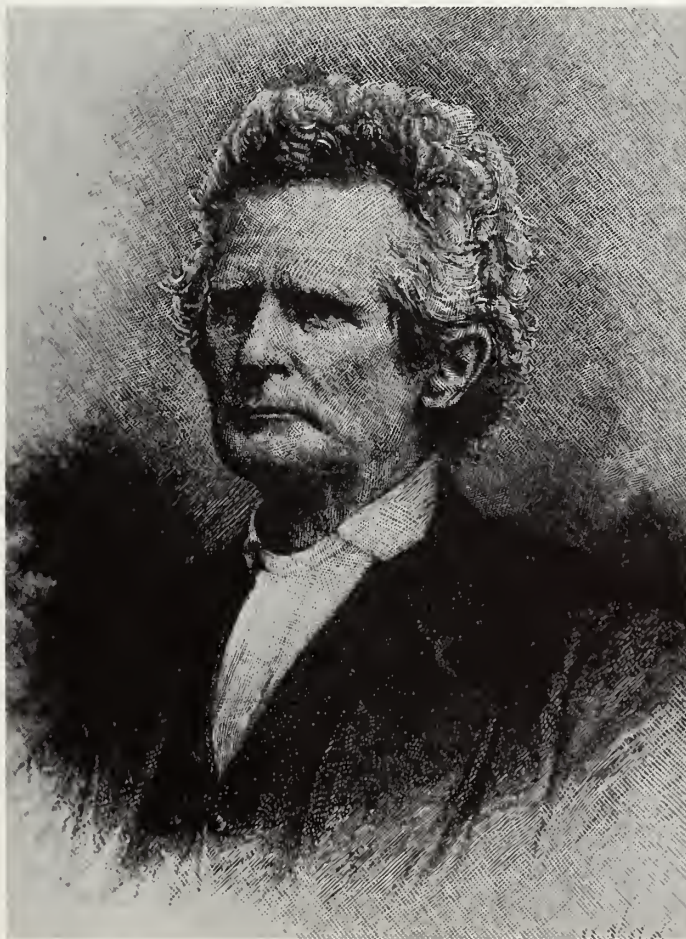
Whereas, so much of section nineteen of the bill of rights as provides for the restriction upon blacks, in connection with certain civil rights, privileges and immunities, is an implied admission of their possession of such rights, as citizens of this state and the United States, in the absence

of such constitutional restrictions; and, *whereas*, the directions therein given to the Legislature presupposes that any portion of the people of this state would be in favor of conferring such rights and privileges (as is therein denied) to colored people; and *whereas*, the Legislature would have no power to allow to persons of color to hold office and without any constitutional prohibition have already passed laws with severe penalties, not only making intermarriage and marriage contracts between them and the whites a criminal offence, but null and void, therefore,

*Resolved*, That said article be committed to the committee on Revision with instructions to omit so much of said section as refers to persons of color.

Springfield voted overwhelmingly to bar entry of Negroes into Illinois, 774-148. The minuscule 16% minority which defied prejudice, however, contained a number of people whose names are quite familiar to Lincoln students.

STEPHEN TRIGG LOGAN was true to his stand at the convention. On voting day he voted against the exclusion clause. A Kentuckian, like Lincoln, Logan had been Lincoln's law partner from 1841 to 1844, when the partnership was amicably dissolved so that Logan could bring his son David



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FIGURE 1. Stephen Trigg Logan grew timid in old age, but in 1848 he said "no."



into his firm. Lincoln and Logan were close associates in the Whig party in the 1840s, and Logan would be the Whig candidate for Lincoln's Congressional seat the next August.

NINIAN WIRT EDWARDS was also true to his position at the convention and voted against the exclusion clause. Edwards, also a Kentuckian by birth, had married Mary Todd Lincoln's sister Elizabeth in 1832. Edwards was also a Whig, though his political views differed considerably in tone from Lincoln's. Usher F. Linder recalled that the socially prominent Edwards hated "democracy . . . as the devil is said to hate holy water." In August he would run for the Illinois House of Representatives.

ANSON G. HENRY, who was one of Lincoln's closest political associates in the 1840s as well as his doctor, voted against the clause barring Negroes from Illinois. Lincoln and Henry were perhaps the most organization-minded Whigs in the state, and the doctor was a tireless letter-writer and political worker. Henry had been born in Richfield, New York, but had lived in Illinois since the early 1830s. Later in 1848, he and Lincoln would stump the district for Zachary Taylor.

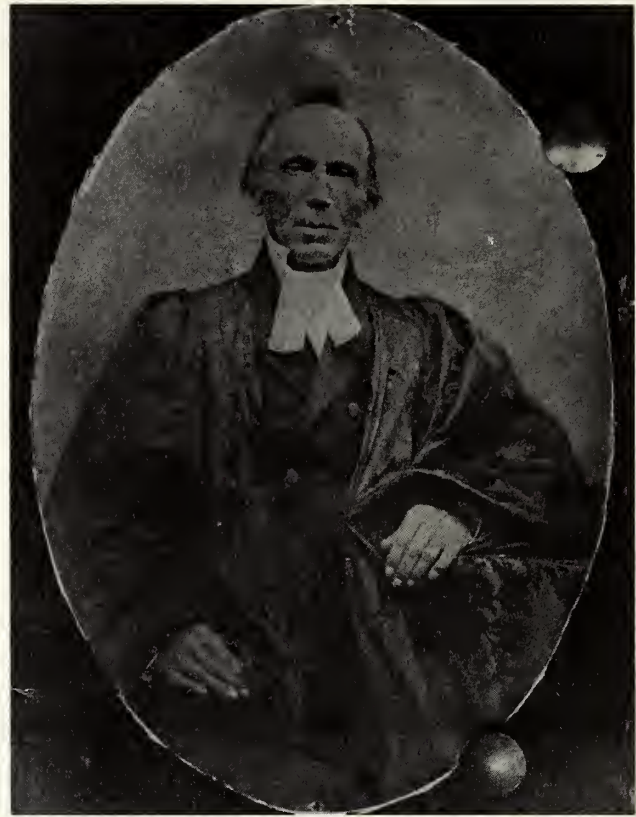
SIMEON FRANCIS, who also voted against the exclusion clause, was the editor of Springfield's Whig newspaper, the *Illinois State Journal*. After what Lincoln referred to as the fatal first of January, 1841, Mrs. Francis had been instrumental in getting Lincoln and Mary Todd back together again. Simeon Francis frequently opened the *Journal's* pages to Lincoln. He had been born in Connecticut, but he moved to Springfield in 1831. By 1848 he was thinking of moving to Oregon, and a year later Lincoln would seek his appointment as Secretary of Oregon Territory from the Taylor administration.

JAMES COOK CONKLING, another opponent of the exclusion clause, was a Princeton graduate, born in New York City. When he moved to Springfield in 1838, he very quickly moved into genteel society. He married Mercy Ann Levering, one of Mary Todd Lincoln's best friends. A Whig in politics, Conkling had been elected mayor of Springfield in 1844.



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FIGURE 2. John Todd Stuart abstained.



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FIGURE 3. The Reverend Charles Dresser abstained.

JAMES HARVEY MATHENY was also a Whig associate of Lincoln's. He was probably the best man at Lincoln's wedding in 1842. In 1858 Stephen A. Douglas would call Matheny, Lincoln's "especial confidential friend for the last twenty years." He was an Illinois native.

ALBERT TAYLOR BLEDSOE was the chief editorial writer for the *Illinois State Journal* while Lincoln was in Congress. Born in Kentucky, he was a West Point graduate, an Episcopal minister at one time, and, for a time, the law partner of Lincoln's friend Edward D. Baker. A Whig in politics, Bledsoe would move from Springfield later in 1848 to take up residence in Mississippi, where his racial views would change a great deal.

BENJAMIN S. EDWARDS voted, as his brother Ninian Wirt did, against the exclusion article. A Yale graduate, his legal career had brought him many of the same acquaintances Lincoln had. After studying law in New Haven, he read law in Stephen T. Logan's office, was briefly associated with Edward D. Baker, and in 1843 became John Todd Stuart's partner. Stuart had been Lincoln's first law partner. Edwards was a Whig.

Some people who voted for the constitution did not vote on the Negro exclusion clause. The meaning of an abstention on this issue is not altogether clear, but it shows at least a lack of aggressive prejudice, a willingness not to bait the race issue, and a contentment with leaving the free Negro alone.

JOHN TODD STUART abstained on the exclusion article. A Kentuckian who became Lincoln's political mentor in the Illinois Legislature, Stuart was also the man who encouraged Lincoln to study law. Thereafter, he showed his faith in the New Salem railsplitter by taking him as his partner.

CHARLES DRESSER also abstained from voting on the exclusion article. Born in Connecticut, he became Springfield's Episcopal Rector in 1838. On November 4, 1842, he solemnized the marriage vows of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.





